

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The SED Central Committee's letter to the West German SPD was conceived by Rudolf Herrnstadt. The letter was circulated not only in the Communist press but also in a special leaflet issue of three million copies. The campaign was especially directed against card-carrying members of the SED who were known to the East German Communists.
2. After discussions in the SED Politbüro it was decided that the letter would not repeat the usual ideological points and slogans; on the contrary, much emphasis has been placed on picking out points which can be used to criticize East Germany from the socialistic point of view. The purpose of the letter is to convince SPD members that there are many shortcomings and errors in the methods used and in the plans established in East Germany. It is hoped that by admitting to SPD members in the Federal Republic that there are shortcomings in East Germany it can be implied that the basic differences between East and West Germany are not between the status of East Germany and West SPD members but between the policy of the Federal Republic and the SED. The SED members are told in the letter that point for point all the demands for social democracy are actually identical with the demands of the SED and the projects of the SED state.
3. The intention of the letter is to prepare the SPD psychologically for Eastern projects. The idea of repeating the first campaign at short intervals, adapting it to current West German policy, has been considered.
4. The initiators of the campaign are of the opinion that at least 100,000 of the 650,000 SED members - those in industrial regions and in areas where there is a coalition of the SED with the bourgeois parties either on the Land or communal level - can be instilled with a feeling of skepticism during the next few weeks. Backers of the campaign further believe that much greater success for the campaign can now be expected because the original violent anti-Russian feeling prevalent in the west is gradually being replaced by an ever-growing anti-American feeling. Inasmuch as the present West German government is being defined as an American puppet government, this initial point (down with the Adenauer government) can be used by social democratic agitation against the Adenauer régime as the basis for a pro-Russian policy.
5. In the following letters of this type, the initiative in the social democratic sense of the word, which has been supported and promoted by the

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Russians in East Germany, is to be discussed in detail. It is planned to cite in the letters some example or another of Soviet obstruction to this or that measure. Such criticism will allegedly point up the liberality of the Soviet system; the examples used, however, will show nevertheless that the Soviet system was naturally in the right. Rudolf Herrnstadt is in charge of the entire campaign, which is to be the core of a program for "democratizing the working masses" in the Federal Republic.

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